

**CIGARETTE BOX HAVING A LID THAT CAN BE TORN TO FORM
AN OPENING FOR DRAWING OUT A CIGARETTE STICK**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a cigarette box, more particularly to a cigarette box having a lid that can be torn to form an opening for drawing out a cigarette stick.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 Referring to Figure 1, a conventional cigarette box 10 is shown to include a box body 11 and a flip-flop lid 12. The cigarette box 10 receives cigarette sticks 100 therein. The lid 12 is connected pivotally to the box body 11, and can be operated to cover and uncover
15 an open top of the box body 11. When the lid 12 uncovers the box body 11, a cigarette stick 100 can be drawn out of the cigarette box 10 by handling a filter tip 101 of the cigarette stick 100.

20 The conventional cigarette box 10 is disadvantageous in that it is difficult to draw out a single cigarette stick 100 from the box body 11 when the cigarette sticks 100 are closely packed in the box body 11. While the cigarette box 10 may be shaken so as to facilitate removal of the cigarette sticks 100, a bunch of the cigarette
25 sticks 100 may fall out of the box body 11 during shaking. Moreover, when drawing out a cigarette stick 100 from the box body 11, the fingers of the user will come into

contact with the filter tips 101 of the adjacent cigarette sticks 100. Thus, the filter tips 101 of the cigarette sticks 100 in the box body 11 are easily contaminated in this way. Accordingly, there is a need
5 to provide a cigarette box that facilitates drawing of cigarette sticks therefrom in a hygienic manner.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, the object of the present invention is to provide a cigarette box that can overcome the
10 aforesaid drawbacks associated with the prior art.

According to the present invention, a cigarette box comprises a box body, a flip-top lid, and a cover. The box body is adapted to receive cigarette sticks therein. The lid is connected pivotally to the box body, and has
15 a top portion formed with an opening that has a size sufficient to permit removal of no more than one of the cigarette sticks from the box body. The cover has a size corresponding to that of the opening, and has a peripheral edge that includes at least one tearable section
20 connected to the top portion of the lid by a weakened seam such that the cover can be torn from the lid at the weakened seam to uncover the opening.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other features and advantages of the present
25 invention will become apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view to illustrate how cigarette sticks are drawn out of a conventional cigarette box;

5 Figure 2 is a perspective view of the first preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according to the present invention;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the first preferred embodiment;

10 Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view of the first preferred embodiment, taken along line 4-4 in Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a perspective view to illustrate how a cigarette stick can be drawn out of the cigarette box of the first preferred embodiment;

15 Figure 6 is a perspective view of the second preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according to the present invention;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the second preferred embodiment;

20 Figure 8 is a fragmentary sectional view of the second preferred embodiment, taken along line 8-8 in Figure 7;

25 Figure 9 is a perspective view to illustrate how a cigarette stick can be drawn out of the cigarette box of the second preferred embodiment;

Figure 10 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the third preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according

to the present invention;

Figure 11 is a fragmentary perspective view of the third preferred embodiment, illustrating how a cover can be torn from a flip-top lid of the cigarette box;

5 Figure 12 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the fourth preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according to the present invention;

10 Figure 13 is a fragmentary perspective view of the fourth preferred embodiment, illustrating how a cover can be torn from a flip-top lid of the cigarette box;

Figure 14 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the fifth preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according to the present invention;

15 Figure 15 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the sixth preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according to the present invention;

20 Figure 16 is a perspective view to illustrate how a cigarette stick can be drawn out of the cigarette box according to either of the fifth or sixth preferred embodiments;

Figure 17 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the seventh preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according to the present invention;

25 Figure 18 is a fragmentary schematic top view of the eighth preferred embodiment of a cigarette box according to the present invention; and

Figure 19 is a perspective view to illustrate how a cigarette stick can be drawn out of the cigarette box according to either of the seventh or eighth preferred embodiments.

5 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Before the present invention is described in greater detail, it should be noted that like elements are denoted by the same reference numerals throughout the disclosure.

10 Referring to Figures 2 to 4, the first preferred embodiment of a cigarette box 20 according to the present invention is shown to include a box body 21, a flip-top lid 22, and a cover 30. The box body 21 is adapted to receive cigarette sticks 100 therein. The lid 22 is
15 connected pivotally to the box body 21 in a conventional manner, and has a top wall or portion 24 formed with a generally circular opening 23 that is closed by the cover 30 and that has a size sufficient to permit removal of no more than one of the cigarette sticks 100 from
20 the box body 21, as best shown in Figure 3.

 In this embodiment, the cover 30 has a size corresponding to that of the opening 23, and has a peripheral edge that includes a linear connecting section 32 connected foldably to the top portion 24 of
25 the lid 22, an operating section 33 opposite to the connecting section 32, and a pair of tearable sections 31 extending between the connecting section 32 and the

operating section 33. The tearable sections 31 are connected to the top portion 24 of the lid 22 by a respective weakened seam, such as a scored seam, such that the cover 30 can be torn from the lid 22 at the weakened seams to uncover the opening 23, as best shown in Figure 5.

Preferably, the operating section 33 is disconnected from the top portion 24 of the lid 22, and has a length sufficient to facilitate operation thereof for lifting the cover 30 away from the top portion 24 of the lid 22 so as to tear the cover 30 from the lid 22 at the tearable sections 31. Moreover, the operating section 33 is preferably disposed adjacent to an edge of the top portion 24 so as to ensure adequate length allocation for the connecting section 32. In addition, the cover 30 is provided with indicia 34 to indicate position of the operating section 33.

As shown in Figure 5, when it is desired to draw out a cigarette stick 100 from the cigarette box 20, the cover 30 is first torn from the lid 22 in the manner described beforehand. With the cover 30 lifted from the lid 22, the cigarette box 20 is then shaken so that the filter tip 101 of one of the cigarette sticks 100 in the cigarette box 20 extends out of the opening 23. Therefore, the cigarette stick 100 can be drawn out of the cigarette box 20 without requiring the user's fingers to touch the filter tips 101 of the other cigarette sticks

100 in the box body 21.

The shape of the cover of the cigarette box of this invention should not be limited to the generally circular shape of the first preferred embodiment. Referring to
5 Figures 6 to 8, in the second preferred embodiment of this invention, the top portion 24 of the lid 22 is formed with a generally rectangular opening 23 that is closed by the cover 30. The cover 30 has a size corresponding to that of the opening 23, and has a peripheral edge
10 that includes a linear connecting section 32 connected foldably to the top portion 24 of the lid 22 adjacent to a shorter edge of the latter, a linear operating section 33 opposite to the connecting section 32, and a pair of tearable sections 31 extending between the
15 connecting section 32 and the operating section 33. The tearable sections 31 are connected to the top portion 24 of the lid 22 by a respective weakened seam, such as a scored seam, such that the cover 30 can be torn from the lid 22 at the weakened seams to uncover the
20 opening 23, as best shown in Figure 9. Like the previous embodiment, the operating section 33 is disconnected from the top portion 24 of the lid 22, and the cover 30 is provided with indicia 34 to indicate position of the operating section 33. The cigarette sticks 100 are
25 drawn out of the cigarette box 20 in a manner similar to that described hereinabove in connection with the first preferred embodiment.

Figures 10 and 11 illustrate the third preferred embodiment of this invention, which is a modification of the first preferred embodiment. Unlike the first preferred embodiment, the operating section 33 is formed by punching, thereby resulting in a slit 331 and an upward tab 332. Therefore, the user can use one of his fingernails to hook the cover 30 at the upward tab 332 so as to facilitate tearing of the cover 30.

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate the fourth preferred embodiment of this invention, which is a modification of the second preferred embodiment. Like the embodiment of Figures 10 and 11, the operating section 33 is formed by punching, thereby resulting in a slit 331 and an upward tab 332, such that the user can use one of his fingernails to hook the cover 30 at the upward tab 332 so as to facilitate tearing of the cover 30.

Figure 14 illustrates the fifth preferred embodiment of this invention, which is a modification of the first preferred embodiment. Unlike the first preferred embodiment, the peripheral edge of the cover 30 does not include a linear connecting section connected foldably to the lid 22. In other words, the peripheral edge of the cover 30 in this embodiment only includes an operating section 33 that is disconnected from the lid 22, and a tearable section 31 extending between opposite ends of the operating section 33 and connected to the lid 22 by a weakened seam, such as a scored seam.

Figure 15 illustrates the sixth preferred embodiment of this invention, which is a modification of the fifth preferred embodiment. In this embodiment, the operating section 33 is formed by punching, thereby resulting in a slit 331 and an upward tab 332.

In either of the fifth or sixth preferred embodiments, the operating section 33 is operable to lift the cover 30 away from the lid 22 so as to tear the cover 30 from the lid 22 at the tearable section 31, and the cover 30 can be severed completely from the lid 22, as best shown in Figure 16.

Figure 17 illustrates the seventh preferred embodiment of this invention, which is a modification of the second preferred embodiment. Unlike the second preferred embodiment, the peripheral edge of the cover 30 does not include a linear connecting section connected foldably to the lid 22. In other words, like the embodiments of Figures 14 and 15, the peripheral edge of the cover 30 in this embodiment only includes a linear operating section 33 that is disconnected from the lid 22, and a U-shaped tearable section 31 extending between opposite ends of the operating section 33 and connected to the lid 22 by a weakened seam, such as a scored seam.

Figure 18 illustrates the eighth preferred embodiment of this invention, which is a modification of the seventh preferred embodiment. In this embodiment, the operating section 33 is formed by punching, thereby

resulting in a slit 331 and an upward tab 332.

In either of the seventh or eighth preferred
embodiments, the operating section 33 is operable to
lift the cover 30 away from the lid 22 so as to tear
5 the cover 30 from the lid 22 at the tearable section
31, and the cover 30 can be severed completely from the
lid 22, as best shown in Figure 19.

While the present invention has been described in
connection with what is considered the most practical
10 and preferred embodiments, it is understood that this
invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments
but is intended to cover various arrangements included
within the spirit and scope of the broadest
interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications
15 and equivalent arrangements.